

U.S. Patent No. 09/980,130
Reply to Office Action dated November 21, 2005

PATENT
450106-03095

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution.

Claims 1, 5-10 and 15-25 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5-10, 15 and 25 have been amended herein. The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 14 and 23 contain allowable subject matter and that claim 25 is allowed.

Claims 1, 5-10 and 15 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 25. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1, 5-10, 15 and 25 are allowable.

The Examiner has rejected independent claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 10-056622 to Kondo. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reason.

Independent claim 16 recites in pertinent part:

said plurality of classifying adaptive processing circuits is configured for switching the structure of the corresponding classifying adaptive process as the connection relation of said switching circuit is switched.

(emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that the relied upon portions of Kondo, specifically paragraphs 53 and 54 and Fig. 7 do not teach a classifying adaptive processing circuit configured for switching the structure of the corresponding classifying adaptive process. Accordingly, the relied upon portions of Kondo do not teach each and every element of independent claim 16. Claim 16 therefore patentably distinguishes over Kondo and is allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 8 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kondo in view of U.S. Patent No. Taubman. Further claims 10 and 22 are

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rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kondo in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 09-0555962. Finally, claims 15 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kondo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,625,333 to Wang. It is respectfully submitted that the shortcomings discussed above with respect to Kondo are not addressed by the relied upon portions of these additional references. Accordingly it is submitted that as claim 16 is allowable, claims 17-24, which each depend from claim 16 are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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